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On the other hand, Mr. Longstaff does not think it will avail much to seek information as to the number of divorced, wages, temporary sickness, or data as to consanguineous marriage, as proposed by Sir John Lubbock.

In the discussion of the paper Sir Edwin Chadwick referred to a paper which he had prepared (also republished in this number), in which he favored an annual census, reasoning that even a quinquennial census could not be accurate; and that the country was obliged to wait too long to introduce reforms for evils which the census might disclose.

Mr. Alfred Marshall criticized the past English censuses on the ground that they were of little value to students of social and economic statistics, although important for vital statisticians. He also advised the establishment of a central body for collating the statistics collected by the various government departments.



PROGRESS OF THE ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

From the Report of the Council of the Royal Statistical Society, London, in June last, it appears that the membership of the Society in 1888 was 1,059, as compared with 746 ten years previous. The financial condition of the Society is most satisfactory,—the assets over liabilities amounting to £6,527. The income of the Society during the year was £2,292, of which more than two-thirds was from the annual subscriptions. The library contains about 26,000 volumes, and is increasing at the average rate of 1,200 volumes per annum. Among other gifts the library received in memory of Prof. Leone Levi twenty-three large volumes of a “Statistical Miscellany,” which Prof. Levi had formed, consisting of a selection of parliamentary papers dating from 1810 to 1886. The Society has announced that it will by all means in its power promote the success of the meeting of the International Congress of Hygiene and Statistics to be held in London in 1891, and members have been appointed to serve on the permanent commission of the Congress.